



USACE CADD NEWSLETTER



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CADD Newsletter

This unofficial newsletter, is authorized under the provisions of AR 25-30, and is intended to keep all Corps personnel who are involved in the use and management of CADD informed of CADD related issues throughout the Corps as well as HQUSACE changes and initiatives which will affect the Engineering business process. The Newsletter will be issued electronically on a quarterly basis. Articles on CADD issues with a broad area of interest are solicited from the field. Send all submissions and/or comments to jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil.

The CADD/GIS Technology Center Corporate Staff Meeting

The Center Corporate Staff met In Colorado Springs 16-17 July. Members representing NAVFAC, NAVAIR, USACE, USAF, USMC, GSA, USGS, and ACSIM were present. A proposed program for FY04 was developed from the submitted projects. Funding available for FY04 projects is \$2.936M. Four projects submitted by Corps personnel were selected for funding – Geotechnical Database, Historic and Digital Map Collection Methods, A/E/C CADD Standard Compliant Drawing Set, and Structural Details. Funds are provided from Army OMA, Civil Works GI, the Air Force, Navy, and Marines. Col Brian Cullis, USAF, gave a presentation on the Installation Visualization Tool (IVT) for BRAC. This initiative is funded by DoD. OSD tasked the Air Force (GeoBase) to lead the IVT for BRAC 05, in partnership with existing Army and Navy GIS programs (Navy -- GeoReadiness)(Army -- GIS-Repository). Col Cullis is the chair of the IVT working group. Josh Delmonico, ACSIM, was selected to be the FY04 Corporate Staff chair at the meeting.

CADD/GIS Technology Center Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors (BOD) met at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC 28 August. A proposed program for FY04 was submitted by the Corporate Staff and approved by the BOD. The Center Chief gave an update on the status of the FY03 program and showed a video of the Visualization of the Corps' proposal for a Panama Canal project, which was done by the Center. Dan Feinberg, USAF, gave a presentation on the Installation Visualization Tool (IVT) for BRAC. Mr. Feinberg is the IVT program manager. Don Basham, Chief of E&C, was selected to be the FY04 BOD chair at the meeting.

MicroStation Utility Evaluation Underway

As many of you may know, a survey went out recently requesting information on utilities (MDLs, UCMs, VBAs, etc) currently being utilized by your district. A total of 168 utilities were listed, primarily MDLs. The results of this survey can be found on the Corps of Engineers CADD Knowledge Base at http://ckb.wes.army.mil/index_sfacc.htm?http://ckb.wes.army.mil/sfac/mdl.htm under MDL Usage Survey. A contract has been awarded to evaluate these utilities. The evaluation will include the following:

1. Determine whether or not their functionality is already built into MicroStation V8.
2. Assess the graphic symbology control and default settings.
3. Determine which utilities perform a similar function and could be combined.
4. If the utility has not yet been converted to MicroStation V8, determine the appropriate method and format for upgrading.
5. Provide a cost estimate for work proposed/recommended for each utility.

Hopefully, this will give us a starting point. Our ultimate goal is eliminate the need for districts to maintain utilities individually, and write utilities that may have already been established. If we share information we can eliminate redundancy and increase productivity across the board.

Submitted by Lori Taylor, St. Paul District

Field Action CAD (FAC) Committees Notes:

The FAC groups are currently discussing the direction we should take with regard to migrating toward true 3D design. We are trying to determine what changes to the A/E/C CADD Standards (particularly levels) will be required in order to utilize 3D technology. If you or someone you [know](#) would like to provide input to this process, please contact one of the following FAC representatives.

Architectural	Stan Shirk (NWO)	Stanton.L.Shirk@usace.army.mil
Civil	Ed Murphy (SWF)	Edward.A.Murphy@usace.army.mil
Cost & Specification	Gareth Clausen (NWW)	Gareth.M.Clausen@usace.army.mil

Geotechnical	Glenn Kato (TAC)	Glenn.K.Kato@usace.army.mil
Mechanical/Electrical	Kendall Waldie (SWF)	Kendall.R.Waldie@usace.army.mil
Structural	Lori Taylor (MVP)	Lorilee.K.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Systems	John Kincaid (MVR)	John,A.Kincaid@usace.army.mil

The only way we can have a truly usable standard is by working together.

Submitted by Lori Taylor, St. Paul District

NetSPEX – Ready for Use!

After months of anticipation, the Center is ready for the Corps to begin using/testing/evaluating Professional Software (ProSoft) Solutions, Inc.'s NetSPEX CADD standard implementation tool. This product (which runs in AutoCAD 2000i/2002/2004 and MicroStation J/V8.0/V8.1) is being evaluated for a year to see if it is a time/cost effective means of implementing the A/E/C CADD Standard.

Installing the NetSPEX Designer application requires the following steps. The first step is filling out a registration form on the CADD/GIS Technology Center's website at <http://aecstd/registration/netspexregistration.asp>. The purpose of registering is twofold: first, it allows the Center to collect contact information for the purpose of sending out e-mail notifications regarding future updates or upgrades; second, since the Center has a 100 license limit of NetSPEX that can be used concurrently, the Center will be restricting use of the licenses to only the Center's partner agencies. Once a user registers, they will be taken to the NetSPEX Designer installation site. Once the NetSPEX Designer installation is complete, an e-mail will be sent containing the final instructions for installing and configuring the resource files (blocks, cells, linestyles, etc.) required for implementing the A/E/C Standard. Once all instructions have been followed, you should immediately be ready to start using NetSPEX!

Since NetSPEX is under evaluation, the Center definitely wants your feedback! Provide all comments (good or bad) to Stephen Spangler (Steve.C.Spangler@erdc.usace.army.mil). As always, the Center appreciates your input.

Last but not least, the Center would like to thank the following Corps personnel who agreed to assist in initial testing of NetSPEX – Jason Fairchild at Vicksburg District, Royce West at Little Rock District, Debbie Solis at Walla Walla District, and Steve Hutsell at Fort Worth District. It is great to see such high interest in a product that people are volunteering to serve as "guinea pig" testers! This testing helped in solving potential issues that future users would have had to deal with. Thanks!

Submitted by Stephen Spangler, CADD Center

Center BPA with Bentley

The CADD/GIS Technology Center recently (9/12/03) awarded a BPA contract to Bentley Systems Inc. The contract is immediately available to the Corps of Engineers and all Center partnering agencies. All Corps of Engineers Contracting Officers are preauthorized to place orders

directly. All necessary information for using the contract is available for downloading. Product availability and ordering procedures can be found on the Center's web site at <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>.

The Bentley BPA offers the Center and its partner agencies preferred pricing below GSA rates for software licenses, software training courses, consulting services, and software maintenance subscriptions. Agencies and organizations that consolidate all of their Bentley software maintenance fees from other contracts under the BPA are eligible for additional discounts.

The Bentley Federal Portfolio subscription program, which is exclusively available for Federal agencies, is also available under the BPA. The Federal Portfolio program offers an organization access to a comprehensive portfolio of Bentley software products at one of two levels. The Desktop level subscription provides access to all eligible Bentley Desktop software (MicroStation, InRoads, TriForma, etc.) and the Server level subscription provides access to all eligible Bentley Desktop and Server software (ProjectWise, Publisher, Digital InterPlot, etc.).

Bentley is working together with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to develop and deliver solutions that provide better interoperability of data from Bentley's AEC solutions with GIS solutions from ESRI. These software products from Bentley will also be available under the BPA when released.

The Bentley point of contact is Mr. Doug Moat, Senior Federal Accounts Manager for DoD. Phone: (952) 892 3699. E-mail: Doug.Moat@Bentley.com.

Submitted by John Hood, CADD/GIS Technology Center. <http://tsc.wes.army.mil>

SDSFIE Training Workshops for FY04

The CADD/GIS Technology Center for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment has scheduled SDSFIE Training Workshops for FY04. The Basic Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE) Workshop stresses the fundamentals of GIS, SDSFIE organization, and use of three core SDSFIE tools, the Browser, Filter Maker, and Access Builder. The Advanced SDSFIE class focuses on implementation of the SDSFIE as it pertains to ESRI Geodatabase structure. Other course topics cover data-processing issues such as spatial references, feature level metadata, and data migration. Many students gain the confidence and skills to undertake the data conversion and migration into an SDSFIE database.

Schedule of classes is as follows: Basic SDSFIE Implementation – 9-11 Feb, 14-16 June, and 17-18 Aug 2004; Advanced SDSFIE Implementation 11-13 Feb, 16-18 June and 17-19 Aug 2004. Classes are limited to 18 people. Further information concerning these workshops can be found online at: <http://tsc.wes.army.mil/news/classes/ClassRegistration/>. Classes fill quickly; please sign-up early.

Submitted by Laurel Gorman, CADD/GIS Technology Center

SDSFIE Release 2.30

The Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure, and Environment (SDSFIE), Release 2.30 is now available at:

http://tsc.wes.army.mil/products/tssds-tsfmts/tssds/projects/sds/sds_toolbox.html or directly at:
<http://www.upper-90.com/Products/CGCenter/prod000.htm>. The content has been expanded significantly in support of DoD/Federal partners and all field users to include 37 new tables and 1,322 attributes. For additional information, please contact the SDSFIE Project Manager, [Nancy Towne](#).
Submitted by Laurel Gorman, CADD/GIS Technology Center

SAC Committee Members

The current SAC Committee members are:

- Larry Rogers, CESWF, Chair
- Art Connolly, CENAN
- John Bailen, CEMVP
- Daniel Hitchings, CELRP
- Ralph Barrett, CESAS
- Jean McGinn, HQUSACE

ProjectWise Users' Group

Much emphasis has been placed recently in the management of electronic files, both as normal documents during project development, design and construction, and as records and archives. New advancements in software have made it possible to effectively manage complex design documents. One of the software products many districts have been considering or implementing is ProjectWise from Bentley Systems, Inc.

ProjectWise offers the capabilities of managing CADD files (both MicroStation and AutoCADD) and office documents from various software vendors. Much of the leadership in document management has come from the CADD arena, and document management was a major topic at the annual Systems Field Action CADD (FAC) Committee meeting last December. As an outfall of this meeting, it was decided that a working group should be created to gather ideas and information about the various approaches districts have made in implementing ProjectWise and to help create uniformity in the use of ProjectWise.

The working group has held monthly conference calls and has utilized Placeware conference meetings to demonstrate individual districts environments and other topics of interest such as commercial training software. During the calls, discussions are held about problems and ongoing actions that may be of interest to others.

Representatives from over 20 districts and offices have participated in the calls. Levels of involvement with ProjectWise by these participants include those already fielding the software, to those in some stage of fielding the software to those in the process of planning for the software. The primary goal of discussions is to assure that anyone participating in the calls is able to learn from others' experiences.

A workgroup site for ProjectWise items has been created where documents can be viewed

through the ProjectWise interface. These documents include environment information from various districts, and some sample files. Samples will be increasing in the near future.

The coordinator for the workgroup is Ed Mathison at Louisville District. Contact him if you want more information about the workgroup or about accessing the workgroup's site. He can be reached via email Edward.C.Mathison@lrl02.usace.army.mil.

Submitted by Ed Mathison, Louisville District

Call for Articles

I encourage anyone in the field who has CADD related information of general interest to Corps personnel to submit articles (to jean.a.mcgin@usace.army.mil) for the next issue, which should be issued the end of December 2003.